

Message Text

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UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1108

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S REMARKS AT PM MEIR'S LUNCHEON

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SKOWCROFT AND ZIEGLER

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REPLY
TO REMARKS BY PM MEIR AT LUNCHEON GIVEN BY MRS. MEIR AT
KING DAVID HOTEL, SUNDAY, MAY 26:

2. QUOTE: MADAM PRIME MINISTER, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES:
I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE SAID,
THOUGH TO (SEVERAL WORDS LOST) FOR DOING IMPOSSIBLE THINGS
IN THIS COUNTRY IS A LITTLE BIT OUT OF PLACE BECAUSE THIS
WHOLE COUNTRY IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY. IT IS A TESTIMONY TO
THE FACT THAT ALL GREAT THINGS IN HISTORY HAVE BEEN DREAMS
BEFORE THEY BECAME A REALITY. AND WHEN I SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE AT
MY TABLE HERE, ALL OF WHOM CAME TO THIS COUNTRY AT A TIME
WHEN IT WAS BARREN AND ALL THEY HAD WAS THEIR INSPIRATION, THEN
I KNOW THAT THERE IS STILL HOPE IN THIS WORLD AND WHEN THE
PETTY CALCULATIONS THAT FORM SO MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION
OF THE DAY HAVE BEEN OVERCOME--AT LEAST IN SOME PARTS OF

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THE WORLD--BY GREAT DREAMS THAT THEN BECAME GREAT EVENTS.

3. I MUST SAY ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES THAT THE LAST FOUR WEEKS FOR ALL THEIR DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST REWARDING, SOMETIMES THE MOST COMPLEX, AND SOMETIMES THE MOST EMOTIONAL, OF OUR LIVES. IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT ONE IS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE A COURSE OF EVENTS, AND THERE IS NO AREA THAT IS SO MUCH MORE IN NEED OF CHANGE AS THE MIDDLE EAST, NO AREA IN WHICH SUFFERING HAS BEEN MORE PROLONGED, AND NO PEOPLE WHICH DESERVES A REST MORE THAN THIS PEOPLE HERE WHICH THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY HAS BORNE MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF SUFFERING.

4. AS WE HAVE EMBARKED ON THIS EFFORT, SOMETIMES THINKING THAT IT WOULD FAIL, SOMETIMES MAKING PROGRESS, WE HAVE ALL BEEN DETERMINED THAT WHETHER WE SUCCEED ON THIS PARTICULAR EFFORT OR NOT, THAT THE COURSE ON WHICH WE EMBARK MUST SUCCEED, THAT PEACE MUST BE BROUGHT TO THIS AREA AND THAT ALL OF US WILL MAKE THE GREATEST EFFORT TO REALIZE WHAT WE HAVE STARTED.

5. WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE PATIENCE OF THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAMS AND TO THE PATIENCE OF THE ISRAELI CABINET. THE FOREIGN MINISTER MANY MONTHS AGO TOLD ME THAT ISRAEL WOULD CONDUCT ITS NEGOTIATION WITH ITS CHARACTERISTIC TENACITY. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING

ABOUT OR I WOULD NOT BE HERE. AND WE HAVE HAD OCCASIONS WHEN AFTER TALKING ABOUT KUNEITRA FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, I SENT TWO MEMBERS OF MY TEAM OUT THERE TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT AND ONE OF THEM CAME BACK AND SAID: 'IMAGINE WHAT THEY'RE DOING NOW--THEY'RE PUSHING KUNEITRA TOWARD THE SYRIAN FRONTIER.' THEY HAD SEEN SOME BULLDOZERS AT WORK. WE HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW EVERY HILL ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND MANY OTHER PROBLEMS, AND WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED WHAT WAS TO US FIRST AN INTELLECTUAL DECISION HAS NOW BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN EMOTIONAL NECESSITY; THAT THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE MUST NOT BE LOST AND THAT WHETHER OR NOT THIS LAST TRIP TO DAMASCUS WILL BRING THE AGREEMENT THAT IS SO CLOSE, WE WILL CONTINUE THE EFFORT UNTIL THIS FIRST STEP TOWARD A LASTING PEACE WILL HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED.

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6. MADAME PRIME MINISTER, YOU REPRESENT THIS GENERATION THAT CAME TO THIS COUNTRY WHEN IT WAS ONLY A DREAM AND YOU HAVE DONE WHAT IS GIVEN TO VERY FEW: TO BRING A PEOPLE TO A COUNTRY, TO MAKE THE COUNTRY A STATE, AND TO TURN THE STATE INTO A HOME. ALL OF US WHO HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH YOU HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY YOUR GREATNESS AS A HUMAN BEING, AS WELL AS BY YOUR LEADERSHIP OF YOUR COUNTRY.

7. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT NOTHING IS MORE PERMANENT IN ISRAEL
THAN A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT. IF I CAN BELIEVE THE NEWSPAPER
REPORTS, IT MAY BE THAT A NEW GOVERNMENT WILL SOON BE FORMED AND
WITH ALL OUR RESPECT FOR YOUR SUCCESSOR, WHOM WE HAVE KNOWN

AND ADMIRER, WE NEVERTHELESS WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WHEN

YOU RETIRE AS PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL YOU WILL REMAIN A
MAJOR FORCE IN THE WORLD AND THAT WE JOIN YOU IN YOUR HOPE
FOR A PEACE THAT WILL LAST IN WHICH CHILDREN CAN GUARD THEIR

INNOCENCE AND ALL THE MEN CAN TURN TO TASKS OF
CONSTRUCTION. I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE PRIME
MINISTER, AND TO PEACE. UNQUOTE.
DAY

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